TURNING THE TIDE

L.A. ANTI-RACISM NEWSLETTER

PEOPLE AGAINST RACIST TERROR (PART) P. O. Box 1990, Burbank CA 91507

Volume III, #6 October - December 1990

DRUMBEAT OF RACIST VIOLENCE AROUND L.A.

ORANGE COUNTY:

Amber Jefferson, an eighth-grader in Garden Grove of mixed racial background, was talking with several Black, white and Hispanic friends on Aug. 6, when an argument began between one of her friends and a white teen-age girl. The dispute swiftly erupted into racial expletives and then violence from the white girl's friends, including a half dozen teenagers and a white man, age 42. They pulled out baseball bats and began swinging, according to reports.

As Amber and her friends tried to run, she was hit brutally on the head and legs, and a shard of glass weilded by one attacker cut a groove an inch deep down her cheek, from her scalp to her jaw. Now, her jaw is wired shut, the muscles on one side of her face are frozen and may take years to recover full mobility. She has to eat through a tube. A plastic surgeon in Hollywood has offered to reconstruct her face free, after her plight was publicized.

For more than five weeks after the incident, no one was charged, although the participants were known. The Urban League called for federal prosecutors to investigate. The Orange County sheriffs investigating the incident first refused to classify it as racially motivated, although under pressure from civil rights activists, the sheriff's department finally recommended that the D.A. consider filing charges under the state "hate crime" law. The D.A. wanted to press charges against both Amber's attackers and against some of her friends.

Amber's father, William Jefferson, who is Black, is angry not only about his daughter's condition, but about her treatment by the authorities. "If this had been a 15 year old white girl attacked by two Black guys, someone would be in jail. I don't want anyone to go and hurt those people, but I want the law to take of (it)," he told the L.A. Times. Amber's aunt reiterated the charges of discriminatory treatment after the attack. "They're just trying to hush it up. That child was almost killed, and it wasn't even in the paper." Eventually, charges were filed against the attackers, and one is being tried as an adult, but the D.A. refused to denote the attack as a hate crime.

RACIST SHOOTING IN TARZANA

20-year-old Jeffrey Scott Johnson was arrested at his suburban Canoga Park home by L.A. police Sunday, Oct. 14 and five other suspects were later taken into custody, after a racially-motivated shooting erupted at a house party in nearby Tarzana, following a confrontation between minorities and a group of whites shouting racist slogans. The gunman who fired into the party before midnight Friday yelled, "White power!" before opening up with a shotgun at the crowd of about 300. Four people among the group of white, Black and Hispanic party-goers were wounded, possibly in a cross-fire when several Black and Hispanic party-goers, described by police as gang members, also went for weapons and returned the fire.

A group of whites at the party had begun shouting, "white power" and "white supremacy," leading to a heated confrontation along racial lines. Police believe Johnson, who's white, left the party after the initial confrontation, returned with a shotgun that had been hidden nearby, and began yelling racist slogans as he fired at Black and Hispanic party-goers. Two other men then allegedly went to their cars, got handguns and began firing back at the white group, police said. Police wouldn't release the names or races of the victims, who they said were innocent bystanders, but said that all of the wounded were in stable condition.

AGOURA

The home of an aged Black family in suburban Agoura Hills was brutally vandalized for the second time in three years in August. $30,000 in damage was done; animal feces were dragged into the house, a Black-themed painting was stolen, and a swastika was painted in the living room. Neighbors, who reported repeated nazi spray-painting in the area in previous weeks, were quick to come to the family's support, helping to clean and restore the home. Police indicate that nazi skinheads may have been involved, but have no specific suspects.

NORTHRIDGE

Anti-semitic slogans were painted on the home of the Ly family in the San Fernando Valley beginning in July, and physical attacks, break-ins, threatening notes and graffiti have continued ever since. Mr. Ly is Chinese and his wife is Jewish. Two unidentified youths attacked Mrs. Ly, knocking her down, bruising her head and cutting her wrist. Again, police have not yet charged anyone. After police began investigating, the home was twice broken into, and their cars were sprayed with racist epithets like "Chink", "Jew Bitch" and "nigger lover". And the attacks are continuing. On the night of Sept. 4, while Mr. Ly was out talking with a community group, a rock was thrown through the family's window. The family also received a note warning them not to go to police or community groups for help.

FIGHT BACK!

FIGHT BACK AGAINST RACIST TERROR AND BIGOTRY!

In response to the increasing racist violence and racial tension in the San Fernando Valley, the Valley Interfaith Council and People Against Racist Terror are planning a march and conference against hate crimes, and PART is also working with the Los Angeles Student Coalition on a city-wide high school student conference on hate crimes and inter-racial communication.

The high school conference, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 3, will feature a panel of youthful victims of racial violence, gay-bashing, and anti-semitism. See this issue for more details. For more information, call PART at 818-509-3435.

RACIST TERROR ON THE INCREASE:

LOS ANGELES:

Rev. Carl White, a Black minister, was killed by two white Northridge teenagers on July 28, according to police. Phil Dimenno and Dana Singer went to the Black pastor's home and shot him dead after he refused to ignore a fender bender earlier in the day in which a friend of theirs hit his car. They were arrested after using his credit card to buy tires. Yet the assistant D.A. in the case allowed bail to be set at $20,000 and Dimenno was released. After a chorus of community protest, bail was revoked and he was rearrested. Police later determined that the weapon used in the slaying was stolen in a 1989 burglary and the pair had previously been cited for possession of a semi-automatic pistol with hollow point bullets and a dagger while in a nearby park.

White, who lived in mostly white Chatsworth and worked in mostly Black Pacoima, was eulogized by members of his Apostolic Baptist congregation, who found him shot in the head at home after he failed to show up for Sunday services. White's daughter, Debbie Gibson, felt the bail decision had racist overtones. "If that had been a white (minister) killed by two Black men," she said, "they'd never have been released."

The chief deputy D.A. eventually apologized to the Minister's Fellowship of the San Fernando Valley for the decision to let the accused killers out on low bail and changed its policy in all such cases to a "no bail" assumption. But neither police nor the D.A. have looked into racial motivations in the killing itself, despite a series of hate crimes in the area, including the vandalizing of a Black teacher's home last summer and the still unsolved killing of another Black teacher in the area last year. Meanwhile the two suspects were attacked in jail by a Black inmate. Papers which were skeptical about any racial issues in the killing, immediately labelled the jail beating as a racial incident.

"L.A.CARES!" FIGHTS HATE CRIMES

In response to the continuing plague of hate crimes, the International Institute of Los Angeles, a group which has previously focused on helping immigrants, has launched a program called "L.A. CARES!" to assist people who have been victimized in such crimes of hatred.

Roberto Andreas, president of the Board of the Institute says the group is "directly concerned with violence and intimidation against newcomers from foreign cultures." Lavinia Limon, executive director, says that the program, which provides up to $500 when the money can contribute to the victim's recovery, is open to all people who are victims of any hate crime, including those based on race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. Application for the grants can be made through local human rights organizations.

SAN DIEGO

WHITE POWER BOMBING

Organized white supremacist activity is on the increase again in San Diego. A group calling itself the "Holy Church of the White Fighting Machine of the Cross" has issued a 30-day ultimatum calling for the repeal of laws against hate crimes. In a message to a San Diego TV station, the group hinted that it was responsible for a recent bombing of the Federal Building in that city. Several white men in military type outfits were seen laughing and running from the scene shortly before the explosion on Saturday, September 15. The FBI is investigating the blast. The White Fighting Machine did not explicitly claim responsibility for the bombing, but said it "cannot guarantee there will not be injuries in the future." The group called for the mobilization of the National Guard to seal off the border, and demanded new trials for those incarcerated for hate crimes. It also demanded that all concerned end the civil suit in Portland OR against WAR leaders Tom and John Metzger.

ANTI-IMMIGRANT HYSTERIA

The White Fighting Machine has also sent death threats to Roberto Martinez, an immigration rights activist with the U.S.-Mexico Border Program of the American Friends Service Committee. The letter to Martinez addressed him as a "dirty f-king spic greaser" and a "beaner", and warned him to stop "criticizing the Border Patrol and the whites who are trying to save our white country from the jews and goy stooges." The letter concluded, "We are going to choke all you pachookos, vato maricone. ... White power is going to get you." Martinez has previously received other threatening letters, ever since being involved in counter-demonstrations against the "Light Up the Border" anti-immigrant vigilante actions.

Martinez believes "Light Up the Border" cannot escape some of the blame for legitimizing such racist violence. "Directly or indirectly, (it')s attracting fringe groups," he says. Martinez has received other threatening letters and calls, including one sent to "the American Friends Beaner Committee," which appeared to come from nazi skinheads, and the AFSC is calling for a thorough investigation. The San Diego P.D. has begun investigating the letters and calls as a hate crime.

Muriel Watson, who initiated the Light Up the Border campaign, told the press in San Diego, "I'm sorry for Mr. Martinez, but when you stick your neck out and you take a stand, this is part of the heat." Watson resumed the anti-immigrant demonstrations last month after a hiatus over the summer when racist leader Tom Metzger called on his followers to "wage war on illegal aliens" and to defend the protest from pro-immigrant counter-demonstrators.

Ex-Mayor Roger Hedgecock has used his radio show to promote the border protests in which people gather en masse to shine their car, truck and r.v. lights on the border to prevent immigrants from crossing and aid the Border Patrol in arresting those who do. He claims that the threats are not coming from within the campaign, and says he has personally received similar letters "from the same guy. They appear to come from the same typewriter."

RACIST POLICE VIOLENCE

Martinez is the chair of the Coalition for Law and Justice, which has been representing a group of Hispanic residents in El Cajon, who charge they have been victimized and mistreated by police using racial slurs. At least one such beating resulted in the hosipitalization of the victim of the police attack. In Spetember, the police chief of El Cajon admitted that there's been a pattern of "sustained misconduct" against Hispanics by several officers. The chief pledged to work with the Coalition to develop

continued ...

SAN DIEGO, continued:

→ RACIST, HOMOPHOBIC, SEXIST VIOLENCE ON THE RISE

training for the police, and to improve the process of taking citizen complaints, particularly from non-English speaking residents. Meanwhile, in San Diego itself, police have killed at least 9 people this year, and injured 15 others in shootings, mostly minority-group members. One officer shot people in two separate incidents, killing one. The son of the top P.D. officer investigating the department's policy on shootings also shot and killed a man. In only two of these case did the victim have a gun.

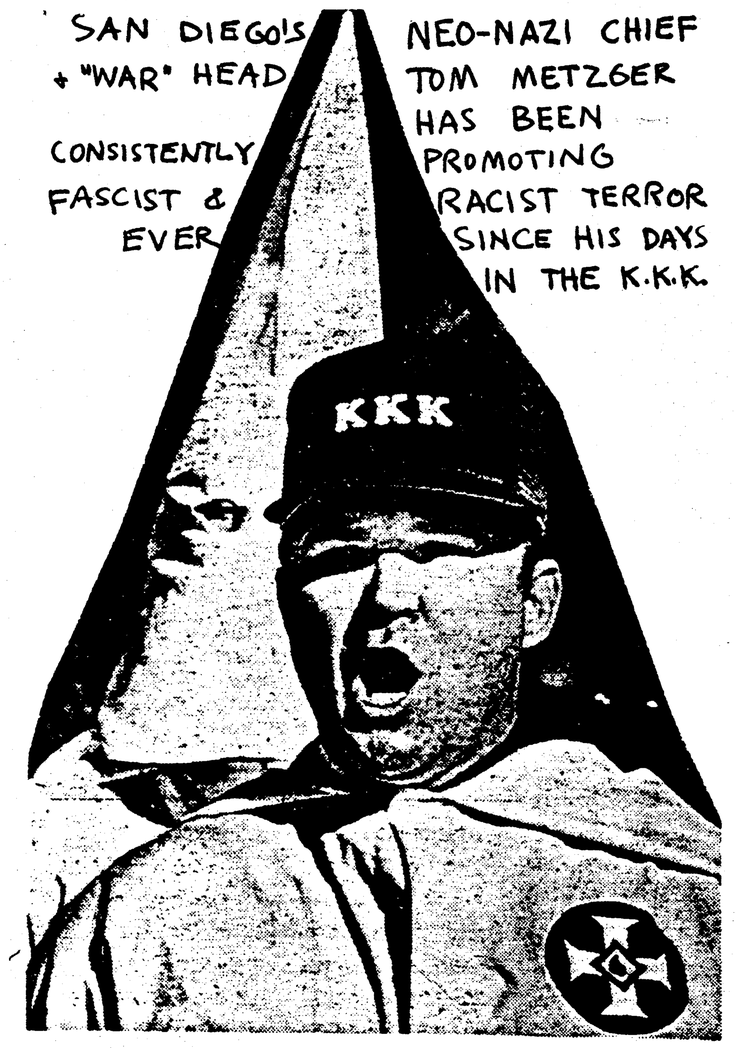
RACIST PARA-MILITARY OPERATIONS

Jason MacAllister, the 17-year-old alleged leader of a para-military anti-immigration group called the Metal Militia, was ordered to stand trial as an adult along with three others on charges of the armed robbery of undocumented immigrants along the border. The three other men were due to be arraigned on the charges on October 1.

MacAllister and his group appeared on Fox-TV's tabloid "The Reporters" carrying out para-military maneuvers in the desert, and allegedly rounding-up aliens. MacAllister and several dormitory mates from a Job Corps program are charged with holding up three immigrants within a few minutes on August 30, while armed with sticks and other weapons.

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE

Since June, there have also been five killings and at least three assaults on undocumented Mexicano immigrants in San Diego, all of whom were trans-vestites or trans-sexuals. Police are not sure if these are serial killings, but suspect at least two are related. One man was beaten, killed execution style, and his body dumped in San Diego's Wild Animal Park. On September 24, the Border Patrol arrested and deported 19 undocumented Hispanic transvestites who had crossed the border from Mexico, allegedly to work as prostitutes in San Diego.



The deadly attacks are being blamed on a convergence of anti-gay and anti-immigrant hostilities. In this area, too, there is a relationship between the vigilante violence and the organizing of the "establishment" right. When Dr. Virginia Uribe, lesbian director of the L.A. Schools' Project 10, a counseling program for gay teens, tried to speak to teachers and counselors in San Diego about gay kids' special needs, she was picketed by right-wing parents and anti-abortion legislative candidates. Hedgecock attacked her on his show. Demonstrators accused gays of seeking new recruits among youth to replace those dying of AIDS.

ANTI-SEMITIC HARASSMENT

A federal grand jury in San Diego indicted three men on September 26 for a campaign of terror and harassment against an aged Jewish pawnbroker. Three men in their early 20's were accused of calling David Vogel almost daily for three years, threatening him and his wife and claiming they would fire-bomb his store. He was unable to get any assistance from law enforcement until he hired a private eye who convinced the FBI to open a file. Immediately after the FBI started to tape Vogel's calls in May, a hate call came in. Two other men arrested earlier in Spetember pleaded guilty to civil-rights misdemeanors in the case.

INCREASED RACIAL TENSION

Racial tensions in San Diego may have been exacerbated by a still-unsolved series of killings of young white women (as well as the mother of one victim) by a man described as "black" or "dark-skinned." In the Mission Beach area, a racial melee erupted on Sept. 23 after a group of Black youths started name-calling at passing whites. Hoping to defuse the increasing tensions, the new head of the San Diego chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Carol Rogoff Hallston, is pressing for the passage of a local Human Relations Ordinance. She said that the existing Human Relations Council has "no teeth."

PORTLAND RESISTS RACIST TERROR!

Almost 3,000 demonstrators marched across Portland, OR on Sunday, October 7, on the eve of the civil trial of Tom and John Metzger and two of their neo-nazi bonehead followers for the 1988 killing of Ethiopian refugee Mulugeta Seraw. The peaceful march and rally for "Diversity and Dignity", sponsored by a broad array of Pacific Northwest human rights organizations, confounded police predictions of violence, which organizers believe were designed to frighten off potential supporters. Portland police, who mobilized in their largest numbers for any political activity in the history of the city, had been predicting for weeks that up to 500 nazi bonehead supporters of Metzger were converging on Portland to disrupt the rally. But the nazis failed to materialize and the anti-racist demonstrators had the sunny streets, lined with supporters, to themselves.

The trial of the Metzgers, Ken Mieske and Kyle Brewster, two nazi-boneheads previously convicted of the racially-motivated murder of Seraw, represents an effort by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the B'nai Brith Anti Defamation League (ADL) to find the Metzgers civilly liable for the death of Seraw.

continued...→

PORTLAND, continued:

ANTI-RACIST RALLY, CONFERENCE, TRIAL

The march, while supporting the effort to break the Metzgers' racist groups financially by proving the direct connection between their racist organizing and subsequent racist violence, underlined the necessity for progressives to seize the organizing initiative, building mutual support alliances among groups targeted by hate groups and winning young people to an anti-racist, anti-sexist stance. One example of the success of this counter-organizing strategy was the presence of Cueball, a former nazi-skin, at the antiracist march. He told the press that he had been won away from his former ideology and allies by the multi-racial organizing and harmony.

A.R.A. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The same weekend as the march, the Portland chapter of Anti-Racist Action, one of the sponsors, held a national A.R.A. conference, focusing on countering racism, sexism and homophobia, which drew participants from California, Canada, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma and Michigan. Although some skepticism was expressed of the liberal backing for the march, A.R.A. did participate. The conference reiterated the openness of ARA to all anti-racist, anti-sexist political beliefs, but in response to proposed principles of unity put forward by the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), rejected the hegemony of any organized political faction or party.

A.R.A. is planning another national conference for next July in Chicago or Minneapolis. Chapters agreed to circulate newsletters and educational materials among themselves, and to take up several national organizing projects, such as a poster or newspaper.

Right up to the march, Portland police were harassing SHARP skins and ARA organizers, refusing to distinguish them from the nazi boneheaads and labelling them a "gang." Police repeatedly stopped cars in which ARA and SHARP members were driving.

RACIST TERROR IN THE NORTHWEST

The march and rally underscored the need for continuing vigilance and organizing. Marchers were sobered by headlines proclaiming the strong turn-out for former KKK leader David Duke in the Louisiana U.S. Senate primary, in which the klansman garnered a majority of the white vote, and by local news reports of an inter-racial couple having been forced from their home by death threats after a story appeared about them in the Oregonian newspaper. The Coalition for Human Dignity, a rally sponsor, released an extensive research report detailing the operations of three dozen white supremacist groups around Oregon, including so-called Christian Patriots. Other marchers pointed to the current trial of several members of the Aryan Nations on charges of planning to bomb gay bars, Jewish temples and Korean businesses in Seattle as evidence of the continuing threat posed by the neo-nazi movement.

METZGER ON TRIAL

The Portland civil trial is exposing some of the inner workings of that movement, as well as some of the divisons within it. On Monday, October 15, the trial entered its second week under heavy security at the Multnomah County Courthouse. The Metzgers, who are being accused of inciting the beating death of Seraw by sending agents to Portland to preach hate and violence, are defending themselves. The ACLU, which declined Metzger's request to defend him, did file a friend of the court brief calling on Judge Ancer Haggerty, a Black man, to dismiss several of the counts on grounds they violate Metzger's free speech rights to verbally advocate racism and violence. But Morris Dees of the SPLC and the other attorneys for the family of the slain Mulugeta Seraw, 27, claim the Metzgers were intimately involved in fomenting the deadly attack. The National Lawyers Guild has supported the view that the kind of racist organizing carried out by WAR, the KKK and other racist groups is not simply political speech entitled to Constitutional protection, but part of a continuum of racist action and violence.

FREE SPEECH OR RACIST TERROR?

Metzger claims the trial is political persecution, and despite the nazi-skins' confessions of racially-motivated murder. proclaims that the killing of Seraw was justified self-defense. "I am a white separatist," the elder Metzger, a master of media manipulation, told jurors. "I'm a small-business man from Fallbrook, Calif. I'm going to talk to you like I would one of my customers over a cup of coffee or a beer." He told jurors the lawsuit was a government attempt to persecute him. He made a similar claim in a recent letter to the Nation, in which he charged Portland politicos with hypocrisy for supporting the trial and march, saying that the boardrooms of Portland are as full of racists as those elsewhere, a charge with a lot of validity.

Metzger has perfected his "free speech" rhetoric over several years of using his TV show "Race and Reason" to project WAR onto cable systems around the country. Yet the show itself has consistently been connected to an increase in racist violence everywhere it has aired. A random racial killing in Nevada of a Black man by several nazi boneheads, almost identical to the Portland case, followed an organizing drive in the state by the Metzgers themselves. White-power kids respond to the WAR line that nazi-skins are front line street warriors of the white racialist movement, and get caught up in the competition between old-line nazi groups for the allegiance of the nazi-skins. These organized nazis foment and exploit competition between various nazi-skin gangs for the resources, weapons and support that the organized groups have to offer. As a result, nazi skins in several cities have carried out similar atrocities to prove their racist mettle and unity with their ideological elders. The Portland trial provides a test case of trying to hold Metzger liable for the violence that his cynical racist strategy produces.

The courthouse is under heavy security. Police taped paper over the courtroom windows and spectators were required to pass through a labyrinth of metal detectors. Officers routinely lined skinheads along the wall outside the courtroom and searched them. Three skinheads were arrested for carrying weapons, and two on outstanding warrants. One warrant alleged a neo-Nazi bonehead had tried to carve a swastika into the skull of a member of SHARP.

Early in the week police spotted a suspicious-looking lunchbox outside a federal courthouse several blocks from where the trial is being held. The bomb squad was called and the box was pulled into the street. It contained only a lunch. But fear of violence by neo-nazis remains high in the wake of a bombing of the federal building in San Diego a couple of weeks ago by a previously unknown racist group called the White Fighting Machine of the Cross, which demanded that the Portland trial be stopped and threatened further violence.

IN OUR OPINION....

RAPE, BATTERING, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: CRIMES OF HATRED

The steady escalation of rapes, assaults, and murders of women in every part of the U.S. demands a response from anti-racists and everyone concerned with ending oppression.

There is no doubt that such activities are hate crimes against women. Woman-hatred is so deeply ingrained in our culture that there is a special "respectable" word for it -- "misogyny."

Unchallenged domestic violence leads naturally to unsolved serial killings. The dehumanization of women forced to sell their bodies to survive has meant that some men have felt free to act out their hatred and fear through brutal murders. When the victims have been Black and Hispanic prostitutes, little has been done. Now that college coeds have become the victims of serial killers in San Diego, Florida, and elsewhere, there is a generalized hysteria.

Such crimes against women -- all women, whatever their race, age, or social status -- must be condemned. They should be added to the hate crime statistics which many localities and governments are keeping. But they must not become excuses for police witch-hunts against Black and Hispanic young men. Most Black men who rape, rape Black women. Most white women are raped by white men. Such attacks are no less despicable than when the perpetrator and victim are of different groups. Rape is not about sex; it is about power and violence.

Coors is the one...

"One of the best things the slave traders did for you was to drag your ancestors over here in chains..."
--William K. Coors February 24, 1984

In the 1920's the KU KLUX KLAN held meetings and cross burning ceremonies on the Coors Brewery property in Golden, Colorado with the permission of Adolf Coors.

"It's not that the dedication among the blacks is less-- in fact, it's greater. They lacked the intellectual capacity to succeed." --William K. Coors February 24, 1984

PART EDITORIALS

Coke SWEETENS APARTHEID

Boycott Coca-Cola Products

Coke Boycott Campaign 92 Piedmont Avenue Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 586-0460 April 1989

"REVERSE RACISM" DOESN'T EXIST, BUT HATRED, PREJUDICE AND BIGOTRY ARE FOUND EVERYWHERE

A lot of racists oppose affirmative action, calling it racism in reverse. Racism is about institutionalized power and privilege, and in this society, efforts to overcome not only the history but the current reality of discrimination, exclusion and subjugation of people of color are completely justified.

But discounting reverse racism does not mean that prejudice, race hatred and bigotry are the exclusive property of the powerful and privileged whites alone. Oppression doesn't produce virtue in the oppressed. First of all, the racist power system keeps the oppressed fighting among themselves, hating themselves and each other. This acounts for the terrible plague of black-on-black violence, and for the recent upsurge in hostility between people of color -- for example, recent attacks by Blacks on Asians and Hispanics here in Los Angeles and elsewhere around the country.

Racism also produces a rage in the oppressed which can take the form of random violence against a racially-identified oppressor, regardless of the individual behavior or beliefs of the person from the oppressor group. In fact, since such rage is often an expression of fear, it is likeliest to manifest itself against the weakest or most vulnerable members of the oppressor group, for example women. A recent example is the action of an Iranian in Berkeley who took a group of students hostage, forced the women to engage in perverted sexual behavior, and expressed hostility towards white women. Such activity is not liberatory, but predatory, and should not be condoned or excused in the name of anti-racism. Otherwise, the oppressed can easily turn into an oppressor. Witness the zionist Jews in Israel, who constantly use the history and reality of oppression of Jews to justify the oppression of the Palestinians.

Finally, the tendency to dismiss all bigoted behavior by racially-oppressed people represents a desire on the part of people fighting racism for black-and-white, all-or-nothing simple solutions and slogans. Unfortunately, the world is not such a simple place. Class, race and sexual dynamics play themselves out in contradictory ways. In trying to challenge the system and its root contradictions, if we oversimplify, we condemn ourselves to futility and sloganeering that will repel people who live in the real world.

We need organization and unity to fight racism and win justice, peace and liberation, but there is no one correct line, no schema of the hierarchy of oppression, that will make the tumblers fall neatly into place and unlock the door to the future.

PART INVITES YOUR COMMENTS!

Write to PART, P.O. Box 1990
BURBANK, CA 91507

We'll print your letters in the next issue of Turning the Tide!

The following letter was sent to the Nation magazine in response to an article on the nazi movement. It has not yet been printed by them:

Dear Editor,

The very valuable and interesting survey of the neo-nazi movement by Elinor Langer is oddly deficient in its treatment and analysis of Tom Metzger, a principal defendant in the civil law suit in Portland resulting from the killing of Mulugeta Seraw. Metzger appears to have impressed the author favorably with his "personableness ... consistency ... credibility ... dynamism ... and inner coherence," to quote just a few of the favorable terms she uses to describe this racist demagogue.

These are dangerous misconceptions, based on Langer's apparently taking Metzger at his word about his "political evolution." Langer said she found him "engaging ... disarming." Of course, Metzger would love to disarm us. He's a sociopathic racist and homophobe who is eminently skilled at lying to and charming media people and reporters to advance his exterminationist goals. He has given many different accounts over the years of how he "came to be" a racist. Most commonly, he attributes his racism to his experience in the integrated army, which precedes any of the permutations mentioned in the article. Metzger was a racist before he was a Bircher, a Klansman, a conservative or a libertarian, and remains so.

More to the point, Metzger has always been committed to "action" -- that is, violence -- to attract followers and achieve his goals. In sworn testimony in a civil suit by Douglas Seymour, who infiltrated Metzger's organization on behalf of the San Diego police, Metzger and his lieutenants were disclosed to have used a loaded gun in a homicidal form of Russian roulette, interrogating Seymour when they suspected him of spying on them for the FBI. Seymour also testified that Metzger's followers boasted of having killed and decapitated several Mexican migrant workers.

The "Halloween spooky voice" and the terms like "niglets and gooks", which Langer calls "juvenalia", that Metzger uses on his phone hate lines are designed to emphasize his commitment to terror, and to underline his treatment of "non-Aryans" as sub-human, beneath contempt or respect. Metzger and his son John even refer to whites who do not agree with their racist ideology in similarly dehumanizing terms, as zomboids. The point of all this is to serve as the rationalization for mass murder; a point which Metzger makes no bones about in the pages of WAR, the racist tabloid distributed by his group, the White Aryan Resistance. Metzger has written off most white people, as well as the "ZOG system," and is inculcating his youthful followers with an apocalyptic, end-justifies-the-means, might-makes-right ideology, calling for a bloodbath to prevent white racial "suicide" and extinction.

Langer also misreads Metzger's flirtation with electoral activity. Unlike Duke, (or Lyndon LaRouche and Rev. Moon, two electorally-oriented fascists who are regrettably missing from the survey of neo-nazis), who has personal ambitions within the system, Metzger has always been about creating a new openly racist order by any means necessary. Throughout his electoral period, he maintained his quasi-legal, semi-clandestine apparatus, as Seymour's testimony makes clear. People who supported his Congressional and Senate campaigns served as the basis for transforming Metzger from a local Klan leader into the head of "WAR" with a national audience. Metzger's public face has always been geared at legitimizing and popularizing the violence that the racist movement is fundamentally committed to, and at disarming his opposition.

Metzger was not merely "rumored" to have received funds from the Order from its bank and armored car rip-offs, as Langer off-handedly remarks. One of the key participants in the Order gave a sworn deposition to that effect, and only later recanted it.

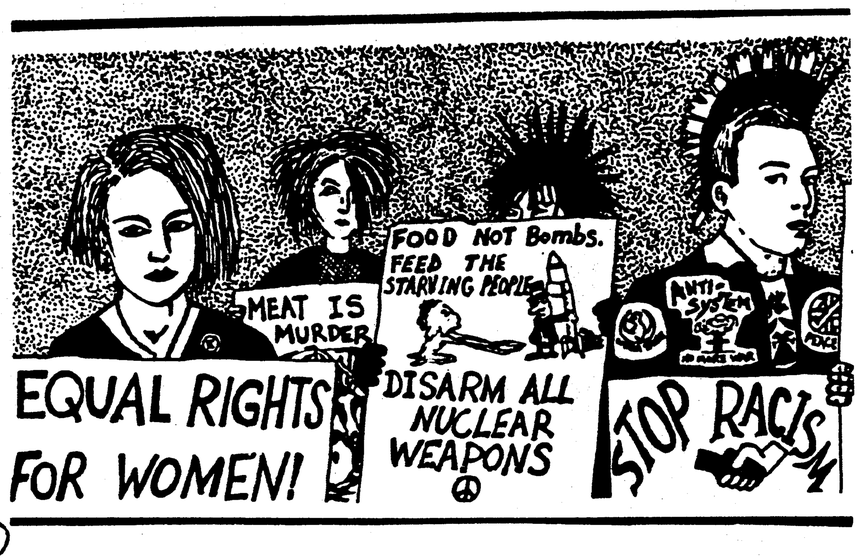
Metzger is the target of a federal grand jury probe in San Diego growing out of these charges. Metzger's involvement with the Order was more than merely ideological, and precedes the exposure and capture of its combatants.

Metzger and his son John participated in a joint cross-burning ceremony in Los Angeles in Dec. 1983 which marked the unity of the KKK, the nazis, and the Aryan Nations with his fledgling WAR grouping. This ceremony, which may very well have provided a southern anchor for the then-still secret Order, brought Richard Butler and several lieutenants down from Idaho to L.A. Five of the participants, including L.A. klan leader Frank Silva, became federal fugitives after being indicted for their participation in such Order activities as the killing of Alan Berg. One of Metzger's L.A. cross-burning co-defendants, David Tate, is serving a life sentence for killing a Missouri state trooper while a fugitive.

Despite Langer's dismissal of the charge that Metzger received money from the Order, claiming that his "outfit (doesn't have) many resources at hand," and that Metzger had a "real respect in his voice" for the sum of $7000, those of us who have been contending with Metzger on his southern California turf for years are aware that his activities took a major upward turn in the period after the Order money, which has never been recovered, was supposedly distributed to him and a number of other public white supremacist figures. His publication increased in size, frequency, and use of computer technology, and his use of telephone hate lines and computer bulletin boards increased. He was able to take over production of his cable-tv show after protests forced it to move out of taping facilities at Cal State Fullerton.

Incidentally, Metzger's telephone hate lines do not even "prove the presence of a single follower willing to house the phone." Metzger runs most of his lines nationally through a commercial voice-mailbox system, American Voice Retrieval, which uses digital technology to record Metzger's hate-filled diatribes and store the responses of those who call in. That is to say, Metzger is substituting money (however gained) for actual followers, by buying this commercial telephone service in a dozen or more cities and thereby projecting a national presence that once again seems to validate his vile beliefs while attracting and identifying potential converts in a secretive, low-risk, low confrontation way. This is the same strategy that fuels his TV show.

I hope you will correct some of the misconceptions that Langer's otherwise meritorious piece has left regarding Metzger and the threat he poses. Perhaps in southern California, we are no longer taken in by Metzger's studied affability, being closer to his principal base of operations, where Metzger repeatedly does things like his recent call to his skinhead followers to wage war on Mexican immigrants and on immigration rights activists who protested racist vigilante actions in San Diego.



COMELEARNDOBEACTIVE
COMBAT HATE

THE LOS ANGELES STUDENT COALITION
WITH THE HELP OF BROTHERHOOD-SISTERHOOD

PRESENTS

A One Day Conference Concerning Hate Crimes

****A mixed race teenager beaten severely in Orange County by teenagers shouting racist epithets**

****Skinheads beat two purported jews and then attack a black person who came to their rescue**

****A black minister in the San Fernando Valley murdered over a minor traffic accident, and the accused white suspects given low bail**

****In Northridge, a Jewish and Chinese couple attacked for the race and swastikas painted on their home**

WHAT A daylong program to include interracial encounters, panels to discuss hate crimes, and a discussion of how we can take action as young people to prevent these crimes

WHO Young people of all different colors and backgrounds

WHERE ALL PEOPLES CHURCH, 822 E. 20th Street (San Pedro, one block south of Washington Blvd)

WHEN Saturday, November 3, 1990; 10:00AM Sharp!

HOW Bring a potluck item as admission according to this schedule: If your last name begins with A-E bring a veggie: F-J bring a fruit; K-S bring a main dish: T-Z bring drinks

WHY TO STOP HATE CRIMES AND TO GIVE SUPPORT TO ITS VICTIMS

PROMOTE PEACE

For more leaflets and information call days (213) 250-5500 and evenings: 213 467-6888

LABOR DONATED